

April 2018

Rhodo News

Newsletter 406



Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Kate Warner



Sunday 15th April
Social Meeting
EVRG 2pm

Saturday 21st April
Autumn Spectacular
EVRG 10am-4pm

Sunday 13th May
Mothers' Day Luncheon
EVRG 12.30pm

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com.au

Around The Garden

I hope the Easter Bunny was extra kind to you all but you still found time to work out in the garden or better still, perhaps you made a visit to EVRG ? Whatever you did, I hope it was a relaxing day.



During last week Maurie, Trevor and I started a list of species that need to be planted out and we have now begun allocating positions for these as we have had a reasonable amount of rain at the garden plus the soil is still warm. This will promote good root growth so it makes the perfect conditions to be planting now . We have already planted out 77 rhododendrons at the time of writing this, in countries such as Sichuan, Tibet and Yunnan along with another 120 set aside which we hope to get in to the ground by the end of this week. We will start on sorting through the vireyas, deciduous azaleas, hybrids and mixed variety of trees and shrubs shortly. We then need to fertilise and mulch these new plantings to give them the best chance of living a healthy and happy life. Plenty to do and the list seems to keep on growing!

Tips for Autumn:

- Now is a great time to fertilise your lawn. As I said above, the soil is still warm so things might be slowing down on top, but below the surface there's still plenty of activity going on. Use slow release lawn food to promote a strong root system and it will also thicken up the grass above.
- Autumn is the ideal time to divide clumping, strappy-leaved plants such as clivia, day lily, iris etc which may have become scruffy and/or flowered poorly. No need to be gentle when separating as they are all quite tough and will thrive on parting ways with the clump that they have become. Put half of it back to regrow and use the excess elsewhere or give some to a friend. You can never have too many plants right?
- Transplant evergreen shrubs and small trees now but leave deciduous plants until Winter.



So many colours in all areas of the garden, you really need to come and see them for yourself... see you at our Autumn spectacular day! *Neet*

You are invited to a
MOTHERS DAY LUNCHEON
at
EMU VALLEY RHODODENDRON GARDEN
on
Sunday May 13th 2018 @ 12.30pm
\$28 adult, \$14 child (BYO Drinks)

SMALL & LARGER GROUPS WELCOME
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: BY 9th May
6433 1805 or 0407 233 932
or by email - enquiries@evrq.com.au



R. dauricum

With a distribution from E. Russia, Siberia, Mongolia, N. China and Japan *R. dauricum* is a very useful species for its hardiness and early flowering.

In its native environment plants can reach 2.5 metres while in Japan some rather delightful dwarf forms have been selected.

R. dauricum is a semi-deciduous lepidote (a plant with scales on the underside of the leaves), with flowers ranging in colour from pale to deep rose-purple, to pale pink and white - even doubles can be found! The leaves are elliptic in shape, rounded at each end and being semi-deciduous the leaves that remain turn purplish-brown in winter.

R. dauricum was described by Linnaeus in 1753 and was introduced to western cultivation in 1780. Many interesting clones have been selected some low in stature, others tall. Most are free flowering, the dwarf forms seem to be later flowering extending the flowering season somewhat.

Here at Emu Valley plants can be found just below the Wisteria car park in association with *R. mucronulatum* and in Japan on the bank on the western side of the Sea of Japan. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.
PO Box 39 Burnie, Tasmania 7320